GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
BAN ON INJECTIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various health and women`s organisations have threatened to launch campaign if the Government do not ban injectible contraceptives and ensure that they are not part of family planning programme;

(b) if so, the cause of such campaign and the details of injectible contraceptives; and

(c) the action taken to clarify the position in regard to safety to women`s health with such injections?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Some women`s organizations are apprehensive about injectable contraceptives and are concerned about quality of care issues in the administration of injectable contraceptives.

Three types of Injectable contraceptives are available. The 1-monthly injectable is a combination of Estrogen and Progestron but is not commercially marketed in the country. The 2-monthly injection commonly known as Net-En has been permitted commercial marketing in the country since 1986 while the 3-monthly injection common known as Depo Provera is being commercially marketed since 1994. Both these are available only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

(c) Both 2-monthly and 3-monthly injections are safe and effective.

All contraceptives must undergo various stages of pre clinical and clinical evaluation as well as clinical trials by experts, including the Indian Council for Medical Research, prior to being considered appropriate and suitable for marketing in the country.Government has scrupulously adhered to these norms and therefore taken every precaution in regard to safety of women`s health.

In the case of injectibles, only the Net En injectible has undergone pre-clinical and clinical trials. It has been commercially marketed since 1986. Now in pursuance of the judgement of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India, Government of India is examining modalities for introducing the Net En injectable on a pilot basis, at a few Government health centres where there are proper back-up facilities in respect of screening for eligibility, counseling and follow-up of acceptors.